

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152573

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EXDIS

EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR STABLER

FOL REPEAT OF STATE 152573 TO ROME JUN 28

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152573

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PINT, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL LEVINSON/LISSAKERS

REF: ROME 9226, STATE 150341 AND 150386

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM HARTMAN

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A
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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM WHICH I SENT TO THE SECRETARY ON JUNE

27 REGARDING THIS SUBJECT:

2. "WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT JEROME I. LEVINSON, CHIEF COUNSEL, AND KARIN LISSAKERS, STAFF MEMBER, OF THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, WILL TRAVEL TO ITALY JUNE 29-JULY 6, IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE GENERAL MATTER OF THE MNC'S AND, IN THIS SPECIFIC INSTANCE, THEIR POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

"EMBASSY ROME HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE TRIP AND AMBASSADOR VOLPE, POINTING TO THE DANGERS OF 'INDISCRIMINATE CONTACTS' BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS, HAS URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO CLARIFY THE PURPOSE OF MR. LEVINSON'S VISIT. HE ALSO REQUESTED US TO STRESS THE NEED FOR THE STAFF MEMBERS TO ACT DISCREETLY IN PURSUING ANY CONTACTS IN ITALY.

"MY STAFF MET WITH MISS LISSAKERS ON JUNE 26 TO OFFER COOPERATION AND TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP TO ITALY. MISS LISSAKERS INDICATED THAT WHILE THE CHURCHSUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF TODAY'S POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES IN ITALY, THEY HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE VISIT. SHE SAID THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S CONCERNS ARE TWO: (1) THE SCOPE AND MAGNITUDE OF ALLEGED PAYMENTS BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO ITALIANS AND (2) ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE \$25 BILLION IEA SAFETY NET.

"MISS LISSAKERS WAS WARNED OF THE ASSUMED EAGERNESS OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY TO USE THE INVESTIGATORS' PRESENCE IN ITALY TO EMBARRASS THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AND SHE SAID SHE WOULD IMPART THIS TO MR. LEVINSON.

"AS FOR THE PEOPLE THE STAFF MEMBERS WISH TO INTERVIEW, IT WAS INDICATED THAT THESE MIGHT INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, AMERICAN AND ITALIAN EMPLOYEES OF US FIRMS IN ITALY (GULF, MOBIL, EXXON), ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND JOURNALISTS. MISS LISSAKERS SAID THAT THE SCOPE OF THE VISIT WAS TO DETERMINE IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY VIOLATION OF US LAW AND PERHAPS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BASIS FOR FUTURE US LEGISLATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. NO APPOINTMENTS HAVE YET BEEN MADE, SHE SAID, AND AMBSADOR VOLPE WILL BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY ARE REQUESTED.

"WHILE WE CANNOT BE AT ALL CERTAIN OF THE PURPOSE OR THE OUTCOME OF THE STAFF MEMBERS' VISIT, IT COMES AT A MOST AWKWARD TIME AND WILL BE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING FOR MANY

ITALIANS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. SUB ROSA OR THINLY-
DISGUISED PAYMENTS TO LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, AND
LOCAL AUTHORITIES BY COMPANIES BOTH FOREIGN AND ITALIAN
WISHING TO OPERATE IN ITALY ARE SAID TO BE A NECESSARY
REQUISITE TO LARGE-SCALE BUSINESS ACTIVITY. ON THE ONE
HAND, THE STAFF MEMBERS MAY COME BACK WITH SENSITIVE GRIST
FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S MILL. ON THE OTHER HAND, INVESTIGA-
TIONS IN ITALY HAVE A WAY OF BEING INCONCLUSIVE." INGERSOLL
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